Boston, April 10. 1854.

Dear Miss Estlin—

How much we have in spirit been in your dear home in Park Street, for the past 3 or 4 weeks, it were not easy to tell. Many & keen sympathies have been with our dear old friend, & valiant soldier, Pillsbury, as, for the first time, his anti-slavery warfare is suspended for any considerable time. And with you, and your Father, have been and will ever be our grateful thanks, for your unaffected, overflowing kindness to the poor, suffering man. "How providential!" is the general exclamation, "that Pillsbury should have reached just that spot of all others, before he was finally obliged to give up to the disease". I shall not pursue this topic, for our simple thanks are all the acknowledgement which will be welcome to you, from us. The greater satisfaction of seeing your patient set on his feet again, & restored to the service of the Cause of humanity, & of pure & undefiled religion, will, I hope, be speedily yours. I mean, however, to enclose with this a little note I received, on short time since, from Mrs. Pillsbury, that you may see how your kindness to her husband has affected her. She is a truly modest & excellent little woman. She has the simplicity of perfect truth & of genuine, deep affection.

You have been very kind to write to us so often

as to Mr. Pillsbury's health. We have eagerly watched for your letter, and hitherto have found comfort and increasing hope in them all. By this last ship ("the Europa", wh. arrived at N. York day before yesterday,) no letter from you, so far as I know, came to Boston. Very likely however, Mrs. Pillsbury has heard, at Concord, N.H.; in which case, we shall hear from her tomorrow; for she has been very good & thoughtful in keeping us informed of what she heard. — I hope, by the way, that Garrison's little paragraph about your letters to the General Agent will not quite disconcert you. I have read to him, or he has read, all you have written me about Pillsbury, and I particularly dwelt on that passage of one of your notes, where you speak of your father's dislike to be himself made the subject of newspaper paragraphs. He responded to the allusion of that, - and, in his few words about you, undoubtedly meant to keep within the limits of the very strictest newspaper propriety, and quite as surely supposed he had entirely succeeded in doing so. His good & generous heart made him feel it a duty to express frankly his thanks to you & your Father; and I doubt not you will pass by kindly anything in the manner of doing it, which might be unwelcome to you.

Do give my very best thanks to P. Pillsbury for the little note which he wrote to me. I felt quite privileged in receiving his first (I believe his first) missive

after his illness. — You are such capital doctors and nurses, that you won't suffer him, I am sure, to write too much, or otherwise over work & injure himself. —

It seems to me that, ~~under~~ in the most favourable results of his sickness, he is not gone to be fit to speak in public before next autumn; indeed, that it will be full early for him to begin, even then. He has had a great desire to talk to those stiff old Presbyterian Calvinists in Scotland, and let them know what a precious set their fellow-Presbyterians are in America. And he will be grievously disappointed to leave that work undone. — By this time, I presume Richard Webb has been before this, to see you all. He wrote to me (in a letter rec^d more than 10 days since) that he intended going, — indeed had taken one departure from home, with the full purpose of going to Bristol; but the absence of the steam-packet, or some other service, obliged him to return home again. — Mr. Hovey, too, I dare say, has been to Bristol. He has long had a great respect & regard for Pillsbury. Mr. H. is himself a very radical, & even extreme, man in some of his opinions. He is a very honest man, abhors cant & hypocrisy, and admires Pillsbury for these same qualities, and for his frankness and courage of speech. —

We are approaching the time of another
Annual Meeting of the American A.S. Soci
In 4 weeks it will come. If we do not ha
one of the very best meetings ever known, a
Signs fail! And indeed we have had
occasion, in the A.S. cause, to learn very thoroug
the truth that we know not what a day will
bring forth. Some of our best meetings have
occurred, when least expected; and when a
great deal is expected, there is very apt to be
failure and disappointment. We shall do
our best, still, to have the best possible meeting
A fine Church is secured for the opening session!! Think of that
New York City, which mobbed us in 1850,
giving us in 1854 one of the most eligibly
situated and elegant churches in the City
and in its most noted thoroughfare, Broadwa
It is the Church built for, & till recently occupie
by, the Unitarian Society of which H. W.
Bellows is Pastor, — now owned & occupie
by a Universalist Society, whose Minister
is Rev. E. H. Chapin, an eloquent preach
a "popular" man, to use an American
phrase, and a hearty friend to the Temperanc
cause, & to the Abolition of the Gallows; — ve
friendly, too, to the Anti-Slavery movement,
though never having said or done anything
very note-worthy in its behalf. — Boston
would not grant a Church to the Anti-Slavery
Society — unless I except one small Chapel — once a Stab
standing in an obscure street — the "Chardon St. Chapel."

Tuesday eve^g. April 11^th^. — Nothing from Mrs. Pillsbury to-day, which leads me to think that she did not get any letter from Bristol by the "Europa". — Mrs. Pillsbury wrote me a 2^d^ note (in addition to the one enclosed), dated April 2^d^, with which she also forwarded your note to me of March 17^th^. — Mrs. P.'s note was full of the most grateful expressions to your Father & yourself, and gave me some extracts from her husband's letter, which proved how fully & warmly he appreciated the kindness & the bounty with which he was surrounded.

In your hasty resume of the present state of the Cause in England were several things to cause regret, — but nothing which so struck at my heart as your words about Mrs. M. Brown. They are very brief, but if they mean what they seem to mean, Palmer could not tell more. "Wells Brown has consented to be purchased"! What next? I ask myself. Is there no bound to human meanness, shamelessness, ingratitude, treachery? Has every man his money-price? What does it mean? Standing in immediate connexion, as it does, with your remark that Mr. Chamerovzow "seems to be shifting New-Organization-ward", I infer the purchase-money came from that quarter. —

Wed. a.m. April 12.—

"Two heads are better than one", is an old adage; especially true is it when one of the heads is mine, and the other, coming after, is Mr. Garrison's! — I showed him the paragraph about W.W. Brown, which had troubled me so, this morning, and he soon said, "I know what this means — he has consented to be purchased of his old masters in Missouri". — I saw it all in an instant, and we have had a good hearty laugh over my sad blunder. I was minded to destroy the whole sheet where I had been giving vent to my indignation against poor Brown, of whom I secretly beg tenderest and pardon for even my suspicion, though my blunder need not go beyond you & your father. Garrison advised me not to destroy what I had said, as it would delay my letter, and I really had espoused the greatest unwillingness to believe a bad report of Brown. So I send it with this explanation. Do, pray, take a very little of the share of my misconception of your meaning to yourself; on account of the great brevity of your language, the

cheerful

inestimable meaning they would have had for any one
not born an American Slave; & on account of their particular
collocation, in connexion with other cases of disappointment
to your expectations. Still, I ought to have understood it,
although I should have remembered at the same time his
oft-expressed determination never to allow a dollar to be paid
for him! Poor fellow - doomed to a life-long exile from his
native land, unless he will pay a heavy tribute to a scoundrel
in Missouri, who claims to own him.

Garrison says, "Give my love to Miss Estlin, & to her
father, and to Pillsbury" - and further added, "and tell
Miss Estlin she is the best girl in the world".

All that I said of Brown, on the supposition of his
misconduct, I would prefer to have seen only by your father & yourself.

Narrowness, unfairness, double-dealing, in that quarter do not surprise me, though I cannot fail to feel some disappointment. But that Wm. Brown should lend and sell himself to their service is more than I should have thought credible. He knows the way of Justice and Right and Honour too well altogether, to have done so great a wrong. But I will hope, even against hope, for a more favourable aspect of this case.— The Crafts are beginning, I presume, to find out their mistake, in rushing into the expenses of London house-keeping, contrary to your Father's earnest advice. It is too bad that the simple return, your Father might reasonably require & expect, for all he has done for them, that of seeing them wisely & prudently availing themselves of what they had had such excellent opportunity to learn, and manifesting a cheerful willingness to be guided by his better judgment & knowledge, &c.— must yet be withheld! But errors of the head are more venial than those of the heart; and I know Ellen Craft well enough to be sure that she will love and bless your Father as long as she lives, and teach her boy who it was that took his mother by the hand, and protected, & saved her, when nearly the whole world were leagued to destroy her. And I think William Craft has too much manliness, not to cherish a

deep & affectionate respect for your Father.
I suspect he is in a fair way to learn that
he was a very great fool, not to show more
deference to your Father's advice. — I hope he may
not become fatally involved in debt, before his
eyes are opened. It must cost him a considerable
sum to move from house to house.

I am glad to hear of the improved health of
G. Thompson's daughter. What will he do now?
Will Mr. Chapman have the nerve & virtue to cut
loose from all half & hollow friendships, & ally
himself with those, & with those only, who are in
thorough sympathy with the Anti. S. Soc[y]? I wish
he would. — I feel more sorry than ever to think that
he and G. Thompson should have committed themselves,
or all to those Manchester & Birmingham bigots.
I was greatly pleased at the part Dr. Beard took.
— Prof[r]. Allen is not a very deep man, though
of talents very respectable. I have thought him
cautious about committing himself at all to our
Movement; but, in several of his late letters to
Wm. C. Nell, a young coloured man here, he
has expressed himself with unwonted strength
against F. Douglass & his recent doings, — which
was, for Allen, a wide & a bold step. —

I have had a second, & pleasant letter
from Mr. Steinthal; — this was more than I deserv-

but I am very thankful to him for it. It gave me great pleasure to get it, as I beg you to assure him, when you write to him, and to say that his letters are among the earliest which I have resolved to answer, would that I could send him something altogether worthy of his acceptance.—

How sad it is, that your time should be taken in nursing our good Pillsbury in his illness, instead of having him, sound & well working with, and helping you, in your multiplied plans and labours for the advancement of the cause!— This is, no doubt, a wise and a good end to be wrought out by his illness, and your cares.— Thy will of our wise and Kind Father be done!— I am very thankful that your own health improves. What a different Winter you have had from that you were anticipating in October & November last! Instead of being yourself a patient, at some hygienic institution you have the sick under your own care, and given your continued occupation.— You have, indeed, won yourself new love and respect from many American hearts; and I trust that you will not have cause to think that your strength has been too severely tried and tasked.— We look with deepest interest for every new intelligence of your Father's health.— Very soon I shall hope to hear of the safe arrival of our Annual box of books,— a goodly proportion of which were labelled for Bristol.—

And now farewell to you, dear Miss Estlin; with my best regards to your father & to Pillsbury.

I am, Most Sincerely Yours,

Samuel May, Jr.